The Member's next representation was for the conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital and for an officer higher in status than a Hospital Assistant being put in charge of that institution. He pointed out that, by the posting of a Hospital Assistant to the institution, the attendance of patients had fallen by more than 3,000 in 1098 and observed that the services of better-qualified men in neighbouring hospitals like Mavelikara could not be secured as those officers declined to visit the patients in Kartikapalli without the permission of the local officer. In a particular case in which the Mavelikara Medical Officer insisted on the production of such a letter from the local officer the patient died before any satisfactory medical aid could be secured.

Lastly, the Member spoke about the cocoanut pest which had grown to be a terrible scourge. From Kayankulam, where it had been raging, it spread to the neighbouring places. The special officer appointed by Government to combat the spread of the disease was unable to find out a remedy and his services were dispensed with. The remedy suggested by the agricultural officers, *viz.*, to cut down the affected trees, was worse than the disease, which showed the bankruptcy of official intellect to grapple with the problem. However, the problem had to be tackled at any cost, lest in the course of a few years all the cocoanut trees in the State should be affected and the people thereby deprived of their means of livelihood. The Member, therefore, urged the need for getting down a German scientific expert with sufficient practical knowledge to cope with the cocoanut pest. He concluded by saying that the problems of paddy and cocoanut cultivation vitally affected the people and that they deserved the earnest and anxious consideration of the Government.

President's reply.—Your representation regarding the establishment of a Magistrate's court at Kartikapalli will be noted for consideration.

As regards irrigation channels you have pointed out in the sketch submitted by you places where you want the channels to be connected. The Chief Engineer says that he will investigate the matter and do all that is feasible.

As regards the Mundattinkara channel, the Tahsildar has been asked to cut open the necessary connection between the channels through some *kandukrishi* lands, with the help of the ryots. The Chief Engineer also says that at the time the work is commenced he will depute one of his subordinates to see that it is properly carried out. The Land Revenue Commissioner will also be asked to expedite that work.

As regards the cocoanut palm disease, your representation is noted for consideration.

161. Needs of the Kunnatnad taluk.

Mr. V. R. Gopala Pillai (Member, Kunnatnad taluk) spoke about the need for the establishment of a Second Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur. He said that the administration of criminal justice was considerably handicapped for want of a Magistrate's court at the place, as the distance from Perumpavur to Alwaye was about 12 miles and the communication between the two places was difficult and inconvenient. The cases filed in the Stationary Magistrate's court at Alwaye were mostly from the *pakuthies* of the Kunnatnad taluk. If it was not possible to establish a Second Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur, either the Tahsildar of Kunnatnad might be empowered to exercise magisterial powers or the Division First Class Magistrate be directed to try all classes of cases.

The Member next referred to the establishment of a charging station at Mamalai. He observed that the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Police, Perumpavur, extended over the whole of the Kunnatnad taluk, that Mamalai, which was the centre of rowdies, was about 12 miles distant from Perumpavur, and that the Perumpavur Inspector could not have proper control over Mamalai. The Commissioner of Police who was approached on the subject appreciated the necessity of having a

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charging station at Mamalai, but regretted that the proposal could not be given effect to for want of funds. The Member, therefore, prayed that the necessary funds be sanctioned and that a charging station be established at Mamalai.

The Member next stated that the Perumpavur Munsiff's court was located in the local satrom building and that the court records were kept in a temporary shed close by, which was quite insecure. The need for the construction of a building for the court house was urged at the previous sessions of the Assembly. But, though an estimate had been sanctioned and the necessary provision made in the budget, the construction of the work had not yet commenced. The Member prayed that the construction of the building might be taken in hand as early as possible.

The Member said that, in the matter of roads and communications, Kunnatnad was very backward.

The Member requested that the old scheme, already sanctioned, of providing a satrom at Perumpavur might be proceeded with as early as possible.

The Member next urged the opening of a canal from the Periyar river to Perumpavur. The distance would be short, and the canal would serve to open up that part of the locality. The said canal should therefore be opened with a landing place and a convenient bathing ghaut.

The Member next requested that the voters of Kunnatnad might be allowed to elect a separate member to the Legislative Council. He pointed out that, in view of its area and population, Kunnatnad well deserved to have a separate member on the Council.

Finally, he requested that the following works be taken up by the Government :—

(1) Opening of a cart road to the Vengur *pakuthi* in Kunnatnad taluk. There was already a road which came quite near that *pakuthi* and it was enough to extend it a little.

(2) Making the village road from Palluvazhi to Mazhuvannur and the one from Mannurparampu to Valampur cartable.

(3) Metalling of the road from the Perumpavur market to the local landing place.

President's reply.—As regards the roads and channels mentioned by you, the question of the Periyar-Perumpavur channel will be investigated by the Chief Engineer. An estimate will be called for for the road from Kodanad to Vengur. The Executive Engineer has reported that the alignment of the Pulluvazhi-Mazhuvannur road and the Mannurparambu-Valampur road is not satisfactory, and that new roads are, therefore, necessary. That matter will also be investigated. An estimate will be called for in regard to the portion between the 143rd and the 144th miles of the road from the Perumpavur market to the Vallam landing.

As regards the establishment of a Stationary Second Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur, the High Court have written to the Government that it is too early to think of opening this court there, in view of the existence of the local First Class Magistrate's court.

Regarding the establishment of a Police Station at Mamalai, I may say that, contrary to your statement, the Commissioner of Police has written to the Government that a station is not necessary there. All the same your suggestion will be noted for further consideration.

The putting up of a building for the Perumpavur Munsiff's court is, I concede, quite necessary. The previous correspondence on the subject, of which you speak, will be looked into, and the Chief Engineer and the High Court addressed.

Your representations as regards Kunnatnad being made a self-contained constituency for the election of a member to the Legislative Council will be considered.

162. Needs of the Minachil taluk.

Mr. Joseph Thomas (Member, Minchil taluk) pointed out that a sum of Rs. 44,200 was sanctioned in the current year's budget for the construction of a bridge

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